

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SGEN, SWEL, OCON
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS

REF: STATE 029931, USUN 285

1. IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUP (WEOG) IRISH AMBASSADOR CALLED A MEETING OF THE WEOG ON 6/23. COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS WAS AMONG THE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED. CHAIRMAN REPORTED THAT REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRMEN HAD MET ON 6/22 TO DISCUSS THE COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THAT MEETING RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT ON THE ACTUAL COMPOSITION.

2. IT HAD BEEN FORESEEN THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD CONSIST OF 15 MEMBERS, WITH MEMBERSHIP BEING DISTRIBUTED EQUITABLY ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS (WEOG-4; LA-2; AF-3; EE-3; AS-3). THE LA GROUP OBJECTED TO BEING ALLOTTED ONLY TWO POSITIONS. IT IS INSISTING UPON HAVING 3 POSITIONS EITHER THROUGH THE WEOG'S RELINQUISHING ONE OF THEIR POSITIONS OR BY EXPANDING THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP TO 16.

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3. THE 6/22 MEETING RESULTED IN THREE PROPOSALS.

A. WEOG CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT THE WEOG ACCEPT 4 POSITIONS AND THAT THE LA GROUP ACCEPT 2 POSITIONS AND BE PERMITTED TO SEND A THIRD MEMBER AS AN OBSERVER. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE LA GROUP BE PROMISED THAT A REVIEW OF

THE COMMITTEE'S COMPOSITION WOULD BE TAKEN AT THE 33D GA WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE BEING EXPANDED TO 16 MEMBERS.

B. JAMAICA PROPOSED THAT EACH REGIONAL GROUP SEND ONLY 2 REPRESENTATIVES, THUS THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE COMPOSED OF 10 MEMBERS. THE OTHER 5 POSITIONS WOULD BE FILLED DURING THE 33D GA BASED ON INTEREST SHOWN BY ATTENDANTS AT THE AUGUST CONFERENCE.

C. THE USSR PROPOSED THAT EACH GROUP BE ALLOTTED 3 REPRESENTATIVES, BASED ON A PRECEDENT USED FOR THE COMPOSITION OF AN ECOSOC WORKING GROUP.

4. THE WEOG CHAIRMAN SAID THAT BY PRECEDENT THE WEOG NORMALLY RECEIVED 5 POSITIONS ON 15-MEMBER COMMITTEES OF THIS TYPE. HE INDICATED THAT THE 4 POSITIONS ALLOWED WERE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THE 6 CANDIDACIES (BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG, UK, US AND SWEDEN) ALREADY PROPOSED. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE WEOG WOULD BE ALLOTTED ANY ADDITIONAL POSITIONS.

5. THE FRG AND UK REPRESENTATIVES, WHILE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE 4 POSITIONS ALLOTTED TO WEOG, EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SETTING A PRECEDENT OF CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF A COMMITTEE UNDER PRESSURE FROM A DIS-

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GRUNTLED REGIONAL GROUP. GREECE AND MALTA ON THE OTHER HAND STATED THAT THE WEOG ITSELF HAD PREVIOUSLY USED SIMILAR PRESSURE TO GAIN ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IT WISHED TO HAVE ON COMMITTEES. THEREFORE, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT IN THIS INSTANCE THE WEOG SHOULD SHOW FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH THE LA GROUP'S DEMAND FOR AN ADDITIONAL POSITION. GREECE FURTHER STATED THAT ALONG WITH SPAIN AND DENMARK, IT WAS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE GA. GREECE EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN THAT WEOG INFLEXIBILITY ON COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS WOULD COMPLICATE PROGRESS ON THE REDISTRIBUTION QUESTION.

6. BY CONSENSUS WEOG MEMBERS AT THE 6/23 MEETING AUTHORIZED THE CHAIRMAN TO PUT FORTH A WEOG COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT MEETING OF REGIONAL CHAIRMEN WHICH IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 6/29. THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL SUGGESTS THAT EACH REGIONAL GROUP BE ALLOTTED ONLY 2 POSITIONS ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BE ALLOWED TO SEND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF OBSERVERS TO THE CON-

REFERENCE IN AUGUST. FURTHER ALLOTTMENT OF POSITIONS ON THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE BASED ON REGIONAL GROUP PARTICIPATION AT THE AUGUST MEETING. IT WAS FELT THAT THIS WOULD ELIMINATE AN IMPENDING THREAT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMENCEMENT BEING STALLED ON THE COMPOSITION ISSUE.

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7. THE WEOG CHAIRMAN REQUESTED THAT THE 6 MEMBERS WHO HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CANDIDACY FOR THE PREVIOUSLY ALLOTTED 4 WEOG POSITIONS TO CONSULT AND DECIDE WHICH MEMBERS WOULD NOW BE THE CANDIDATES FOR THE 2 POSITIONS CONTAINED IN THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL. HE FURTHER REQUESTED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE 6-MEMBER CONSULTATIONS BE COMMUNICATED TO HIM AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE NEXT REGIONAL CHAIRMEN MEETING.

8. FRG AND BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO REQUEST THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO RECONSIDER THEIR EXPRESSED CANDIDACY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE POSITIONS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED. AS INSTRUCTED BY DEPT (STATE 029931), MISSION HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY INDICATING US DESIRE FOR ONE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE POSITIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW ADAMANT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE IN PROPOSING US CANDIDATURE. LEONARD

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